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Application No. 10/724.795 Amendment

conducive to positioning stretched balloon neck 34 and particularly neck portion 38 out of alignment with neck passage means 63, that is, with the slit 62 and V-shaped notch 61 as shown. This is further explained in FIG. 3B description below where in addition, the wall of the aperture 60 towards the second end 54 of the flat member 51 includes a tongue portion 70 protruding into neck receiving aperture 60 itself for the purpose of positioning two different portions of the twisted balloon neck 34 given a two passes insertion of the balloon neck into the aperture.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in this application:*

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1.-19. (Original) Claims are withdrawn.

20. (Amended). A toy balloon closure and sealing device comprising:

(a) a generally rectangular flat member having a convoluted perimeter consisting of a first end, a second end opposite said first end, a first side edge and a second side edge opposite said first side edge;

(b) a balloon neck-receiving aperture formed through said generally flat member and between said first end and said second end, said neck receiving aperture being spaced and separate from said convoluted perimeter and including a tongue portion protruding thereinto for positioning two different portions of a twisted balloon neck passed through said neck receiving aperture;

(c) inserting passage means separate from said neck receiving aperture for inserting a balloon neck from said first end into said balloon neck receiving aperture, said inserting passage means comprising a V-shaped notch on said first end, and a no-width slit from said V-shaped notch into said neck receiving aperture;

(d) at least one non-aligned stretched neck retaining means formed on at least one of said second end, said first side edge and said second side edge